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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/054,998	01/25/2002	Masaki Tsubokura	HITA.0154	7661

7590 03/03/2004

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EXAMINER

CHUNG, DAVID Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2871

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/054,998

Applicant(s)

TSUBOKURA ET AL.

Examiner

David Y. Chung

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-3 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. (U.S. 6,590,626) in further view of Kim (U.S. 6,064,455).

As to claim 1, Suzuki et al. discloses a backlight for a liquid crystal display comprising a plurality of fluorescent light sources and shielding means arranged between adjacent light sources. Note in figure 1, the liquid crystal display panel 1, light guide plate 2, first and second fluorescent light pipes 3 and 4, and reflective light shielding member 5. Note in figure 2, the lower case 57 that houses the light guide plate and the fluorescent light sources. Figure 2 shows the fluorescent tube unit 55 thermally contacting the lower case 57. Therefore, housing 6 shown in figure 1 would also thermally contact the lower case 57.

Suzuki et al. does not disclose that lower case 57 in figure 2 or housing 6 in figure 1 is made of metal. Kim discloses a backlight unit comprising a silver reflector as the lamp housing and a metal press frame. Note in figure 5, reflector 240 and press

Art Unit: 2871

frame 210. Kim teaches that making the lamp housing of silver and the press frame of metal results in a LCD having high resistance to heat and surface impact damage. See column 4, lines 35-62. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to make the lower case of Suzuki of metal and the housing of Suzuki of because of the high resistance to heat and surface impact damage.

As to claim 2, Suzuki et al. discloses a backlight for a liquid crystal display comprising a plurality of fluorescent light sources disposed on both sides of the light guide plate. See figure 3.

As to claim 3, the light shielding member of Suzuki et al. is reflective. Therefore, the surfaces of the light shielding member that face the respective light sources in an opposed manner form reflection surfaces.

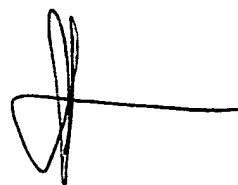
Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Art Unit: 2871

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Chung whose telephone number is (571) 272-2288. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, looped initial followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

**KENNETH PARKER
PRIMARY EXAMINER**